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Report of Special Committee

1847

Manner &c. Providing for Mrs Pickard

1847

Special Committee appointed by the following Resolution of the King and Council of the 2nd instant held at Honolulu House 4th December at 11 A. M.

Present The Premier
G. P. Judd
M. Kekuanaoa
Wm. Lee
John Ii
R. C. Wyllie

"Resolved that Mr. Castle's letter be referred to a "Committee to consider its contents, and the most "proper & delicate manner of providing for Mrs "Richards and her family and to report to a "future Meeting of the Privy Council" —

Chairman Mr. Young was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee

Mr. Castle's letter to the King of the 1st December 1847 was read in Native, by the Premier.

Mr. Wyllie suggested that Mr. Judd as the oldest and best friend of the late Mr. Richards should be invited to state his views first upon all the Topics embraced in that letter.

Mr. Judd spoke in Native to the following effect — that he cannot give his opinion not knowing what Mrs. Richards' views were. He explained the views he had expressed to Mrs. Richards in regard to the house lately belonging to Mr. Pfeister and that Mr. Wyllie would like it off for her.

Mr. Wyllie stated that he had not disregarded the request of Mr. Judd, on behalf of Mrs. Richards, but had twice requested Mr. Castle to place the house at her

disposal, and that Mr Castle had twice told him that she declined the house on account of its lonely situation. Mr Wyllie has Mr Castle's note to that effect, and besides he has taken the precaution to call upon Mrs Richards upon the subject.

Mr Judd — Mr Judd proposed that he should wait alone upon Mrs Richards, as a Committee.

Mr Lee — Mr Lee referring to Mr Castle's letter thought that the precise state of the account of the late Mr Richards should be ascertained, and that all his account should be laid before the Committee.

Mr Judd — Mr Judd thought in view of Mr Castle's letter that was unnecessary.

Mr Wyllie — Mr Wyllie thought that the letter could not be understood as signifying Mr Castle's entire conformity with the account, but rather as an appeal to the King to consider Mrs Richards situation, and that as a general rule, when an account current is passed, it is necessary to have it specially acknowledged as being correct.

Mr Wyllie drafted the following letter which was approved of

Honolulu House 4th Dec.r 1847

Sir

The undersigned committee appointed by a Resolution of the King in Council of the 2nd inst. to consider and report upon the subject matters contained in your letter to His Majesty of the 1st inst., before replying to that letter, beg to know if they are to understand it as an acquiescence on your part on behalf of Mrs Richards, with the state of Mr Richards account as rendered, or if you have any suggestions or remarks to make on her behalf.

The undersigned will be happy to hear from

you at your convenience I have the honor to be with much respect
Sir, Your most obedient, humble Sts
(Signed) Keoni Ana W. Lee
G. P. Judd John Ii
M. Kekuanaoa R. C. Wyllie

To
Saml. N. Castle Esq
Agent for the late Mr Richards
&c &c &c

Mr. Wyllie — Mr Wyllie said that to Mr. Judds offer to wait alone upon Mrs Richards, he saw no objection, provided he saw her in presence of Mr. Castle, who was her Agent.

Mr. Judd — Mr. Judd thought he could best ascertain her feelings, if he saw her alone, but if she wished Mr. Castle to be present, he would not object.

Mr Wyllie — Mr Wyllie remarked that if Mr. Judd intended making any proposals in the name of the Committee, he thought but fair, that Mr. Judd should previously explain what those proposals would be, because otherwise, he might perhaps offer in the name of the Committee to Mrs. Richards what the other Members of the Committee, or some of them, might disap= =prove of, as being unworthy of the King to offer and of her to receive.

Mr. Judd — Mr. Judd observed that until he knew what her views were about the house, he could not well state what he would propose, as it would depend very much upon whether she kept the house or not.

Mr. Wyllie — Mr. Wyllie stated that upon that question he could give no decisive answer, but, he had understood Mr. Castle to say, that Mrs Richards could not make up her mind, about the house, until she knew what the Government would do for her; now he thought that Mr. Judd might suppose

the case either way and state what he would propose in the one case to what in the other. He (Mr. Wyllie) had no hesitation in giving his opinion, that the House or its value in Cash, and whatever little balance there might be in Mrs Richards' favor should be considered secured to her & her children as Capital, and that besides a handsome Annuity ought to be given to her

Mr. Judd

Mr. Judd said, in regard to the House his views were not different: if Mrs Richards wished to keep it, he thought the $500 balance in her favor, should go to complete it, and that the Government should advance the rest; and with regard to annuity, his idea was to double what she would have had from the Missionary Board, but that might be too much.

Mr. Wyllie

Mr. Wyllie wished to know how much it would be.

Mr. Judd

Mr. Judd said, the allowance from the Board would be $250 for herself and $70 for each of the Girls which would be $390 or doubling it $780.

Mr. Wyllie

Mr. Wyllie said, he was very far from thinking that too much. What he thought was, that it was not enough and not what the King could with honor offer to the Widow of a Man who had served him faithfully since 1838. He (Mr. Wyllie) thought the question was not [illegible] only as one of justice to Mrs Richards, but one of precedent for others.

Mr. Lee

Mr. Lee thought another important matter was to determine how long the Annuity should continue, and if Mrs Richards should die what proportion should be continued to her children.

Finally, it was agreed, Mr Judd should make the proposition in the name of Mr.

Committee upon matters relating to Miss Richards's claims
to be proposed at a future Meeting, & the following
Resolutions were passed.

Resolution

Resolved that Mr Judd be appointed
a Committee to confer with Mrs Richards
& ascertain her wishes upon the subject of a Grant
for her and report the same to the Committee.

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting
to Monday at 3 P.M. (Read W. Judd's Report.)

Adjourned Meeting of the Special Committee
in the case of Mrs Richards — 6th December 1847

Present Premier — John Ii
Mr Judd — Mr Wyllie
Kekuanaoa — Mr Lee — not present.

Mr Wyllie proposed to send for Mr Lee who might
have forgotten the adjournment.

Mr Judd's Report

Mr Judd explained in Native the result
of his interview with Mrs Richards.

He then explained it in English. He
said Mrs Richards had received him unusually
stiff and had been apprized of his visit. She
had sent for Mr Castle to be present, and all he
has learned was that she did not mean to keep
the house, and that in regard to a provision
she had full confidence in the Kings Government,
that they would duly appreciate the services
of her husband, & provide suitably for her.
Mr Judd said he had been entirely disappointed
in the result of his interview, & that the whole
Committee might just as well have waited
upon her.

Mr Lee

Mr Lee came in & Mr Judd repeated to

him what he had said

Mr Wyllie — Mr Wyllie stated that in his opinion Mr Judd had ascertained all that it was necessary to ascertain, which was, that Mrs Richards did not wish to retain the house — that knowing this, the Committee could proceed to discuss the amount of the annuity proposed for Mrs Richards, that, of course, neither Mr Judd nor any one of them, could wish to bargain with her upon reducing that amount to the least possible sum. Mr Wyllie proposed that Mr Judd, as next to Mr Richards in seniority of service should give his opinion first.

Mr Judd — Mr Judd objected to this & proposed that each Member should hand in a paper, writing upon it the amount of Annuity that he would recommend.

The Premier — The Premier said the subject was new to them — that they all appreciated the services of Mr Richards and wished to provide for Mrs Richards in the best manner they could.

W. Wyllie — Mr Wyllie stated with reference to the notice which Mr Judd said, Mrs Richards had received, that in handing the Committees letter for Mr Castle, he (Mr Wyllie) had intimated to him that Mrs Richards might expect a friendly visit from Mr Judd, on behalf of the Committee, & requested him to thank her for the Books which she had sent.

After some discussion Mr Judd's plan was adopted and the following sums

sent

sent in, viz:

1st	an Annuity	of	$300	a year
2	"	"	200	"
3	"	"	400	"
4	"	"	780	"
5	"	"	1000	"
6	"	"	1000	"

3680 average $613. 33

Mr. Wyllie

Mr. Wyllie stated that he had frankly stated his views at the previous Meeting – that he was still for an annuity of not less than $1000 a year; he was glad to find that in regard to the Annuity there was only a difference of $220 between him and Mr. Judd, & that with reference to the house, their opinion was the same. He thought that $1000 was not too much for one who had served the King for nearly 10 years – one who had served abroad and had succeeded in procuring the acknowledgement of the Kings Independence by the U. S. – Great Britain – France and Belgium. On account of those great and singular services, Mr Wyllie hoped that besides the house or its value, and the Annuity of $1000, so long as Mrs Richards lives, on the 28th of November of every Year there should be laid on the Table, at the cost of the National Treasury, one Golden Eagle of the U. S. – one English Sovereign – one French Louis d'Or, and one Double Louis of Antwerp, with the Compliments of the King, and as a Memorial of His Majesty's gratitude for Mr Richards services in procuring the acknowledgement of the Kings Independence, by the U. States, Great Britain, France and Belgium –

Mr.

Mr Judd

Mr Judd stated that he considered the Pension for Mrs Richards an important matter in point of precedent, and therefore, he might as well say, that in regard to Mrs Judd and his Children he intended, if able, to provide for them, and that he should expect no pension, unless to make up what might be an adequate provision —

Mr Wyllie

Mr Wyllie stated that was all very well in intention, but Kings Ministers were expected not to work for themselves, but for the King, and they ought to be paid, & when necessary pensioned so as to compensate for that entire devotion to the interests of the King whom they served. The effect of the system was to prevent corruption & secure to the King, Servants of the greatest talent and zeal —

The Premier

The Premier stated that as he thought some time was required to consider this matter, he would adjourn the Meeting to Thursday at 10 A.M. —

1847

Adjourned Meeting, 9th December, of the Special Committee on the case of Mrs Richards

Present Premier, Mr Lee, Mr Judd, John Ie, Kekuanaoa, Mr Wyllie — met at ½ to 11 A.M.

Mr Castle's letter of the 6th inst. to the Committee

Mr Judd read Mr Castle's reply to the Committee's letter, expressing his satisfaction with the account rendered to Mr Richards on the 15th of June 1847, as adjusted with Mr Judd —

Mr

Mr Castle's proposals on behalf of Mrs Richards

Mr Judd read it in English & then in Native. He then read Mr Castles letter to him of the 7th inst, in English and in Native -

The following was agreed upon after a long discussion

First - That the Committee recommend the Government to take the House and all the Materials as it now stands for $4.200 -

Second - That Mrs Richards from the balance & other sources have the privilege of making up that amount to $5000, and that the Government receive that Sum on loan from the 15th November 1847, at 10 ℘ Cent

Third - That should Mrs Richards wish to build a House the Government engage to find her a suitable lot for a Dwelling House and Yard -

Fourth - That the Government further grant her an Annuity, payable quarterly, to support her comfortably while she lives & after her death such an Annuity to be continued to her Children, until they are otherwise provided for, and that that annuity be $800 ℘ annum so long as Mrs Richards lives, to be paid to her quarterly, and $400 for her children, to be paid also quarterly, so long as they, or any of them, are unprovided for by marriage or otherwise

1847

Special ~~Meeting~~ Committee in the matter of Mrs Richards. Saturday 11th. December at 10 a. M. — Met at 1/4 to 11 a M.

Present Premier, Judge Lee, Mr Judd, John Ii, Keluanaoa

Report of the Committee

Mr Judd read the Report of the Committee, proposed by the Sub-Committee nominated for that purpose on the 9th. inst —

It was unanimously approved and signed in Hawaiian and English, to be laid before the Privy Council, at the Palace, this day —

May it Please Your Majesty.

It pleased Your Majesty at the Privy Council of the 2nd. instant to appoint the undersigned a Committee, to consider the case of the Widow and Orphan Children of your late Minister of Public Instruction, Mr. William Richards, and the letter of the 1st. instant, which Samuel N. Castle Esqr had addressed to Your Majesty on that subject.

Your Committee having met and deliberated upon the grave & important matters which Your Majesty referred to them, in three long Sessions on the 4th. 6th. and 9th. instant, as the result of their deliberations unanimously agree, in recommending to Your Majesty, the following, viz;

First — to accept of the offer made by Mr. S. N. Castle, on behalf of Mrs Richards, to surrender to Your Majesty's Government

the house commenced by her late Husband with all the Materials on hand which were purchased for the same, and the title-deed of the Premises on which it stands for the sum of $4.200, being the actual cost, as nearly as can be calculated, according to Mr Castle's letter to Your Majesty of the 1st. instant.

Secondly to allow Mrs Richards to deposit with Your Majesty's Treasury that amount of $4.200, and the balance due to her and other Monies which she may be able to obtain to the farther amount of $800, making in all $5.000, and to give her a Credit in the Books of Your Majesty's Treasury for that Amount or whatever sum, not exceeding $5000, she may so deposit, bearing interest at the rate of 10 p Cent per annum from the 15th of November 1847, payable to Mrs Richards, her heirs or assigns quarterly -

Thirdly to grant to Mrs Richards a suitable Site for a dwelling adapted to her present circumstances, if she should conclude ultimately to build a house for herself and Children.

Fourthly to grant to Mrs Richards during her natural life an Annuity of $800 every year, payable quarterly & to commence from the date of the cessation of her late husbands Salary; and after the death of Mrs Richards to continue an Annuity of $400, payable quarterly, to her Children so long as they or any of them remain unprovided for, by marriage or otherwise -

In recommending this arrangement

to Your Majesty and Your Privy Council, Your Committee have taken into their consideration the length and the importance of the late Mr Richards's services, both at home & abroad, and especially in negotiating the full recognition of Your Majesty's Independence as King of these Islands by the United States - by Great Britain - by France and by Belgium.

Knowing that Your Majesty duly appreciated those exalted services, the benefits of which extend to your Dynasty, Your Chiefs and all Your Subjects, Your Committee have considered that they would best consult Your Majesty's goodness of heart, generosity of Character and honour as a King, by recommending to Your Majesty a provision for the widow and orphan Children of Your late lamented Minister of Public Instruction, which in the present state of Your Treasury may be considered liberal.

For the sake of record and for Your Majesty's information, Your Committee respectfully append, the following documents viz: No 1. Mr Castle's letter to Your Majesty of 1st December 1847

" 2. Your Committee's letter to Mr Castle of 4th December 1847

" 3. Mr Castle's reply to Your Committee of 6th December 1847

" 4. Mr Castle's proposals on behalf of Mrs Richards, through Mr Judd, to Your Committee

Your Committee humbly pray that

the Almighty may preserve Your Majesty many years to reign over these Islands, and that Your Majesty in all future difficulties may never want such good, faithful and honourable Servants, as the late Wm Richards, whom God in His Providence, has seen fit to remove from your side and from your Councils –

Committee Room
Honolulu House
11th December 1847

To His Majesty the King
in Council